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SUGGESTIVE THOUGHTS.

HENEAGE GIBBES.

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SUGGESTIVE THOUGHTS

FROM THE

EXTEMPORE PREACHING

OF

THE REV. HENEAGE GIBBES, M.B.,

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SUGGESTIVE THOUGHTS.

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The life of Christ is the rule by which the Holy Spirit guides our steps.

The image of Christ is presented to the believer's soul according to the portraiture of God's promises.

The glory of a *spiritual* view of truth needs no external adjuncts, nor can the want of it be supplied by outward parade.

"The peace of God," which reigns in the kingdom of Christ, presents a calm unknown *to* the natural man, in whose ears the thunderings of the law are ever sounding.

None can be going to heaven *unwillingly.*

There are no *slaves* in God's service, it is "one of perfect freedom."

The *service* of God must be allied to the *nature* of God, as "God is love," His service must be the "obedience of faith which worketh by love," which excludes all acts that are felt to be painful and irksome.

Fear is the constraining motive of the natural man, whilst *love* actuates the regenerate.

The weakest faith that trusts on a *sure* foundation, gives more support than the strongest confidence that relies on a false ground.

Sincerity can never give security to that which is in itself defective.

Sin only dies in the presence of Christ, "If Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin."

Sin is the worship of Satan.

Too commonly we lean *on* our faith rather than *with* our faith.

There is no suggestion of unbelief, which has not its answer in the word of truth.

We should cherish Faith, as being the object of Christ's prayer; "I have prayed that thy Faith fail not."

The darkest portion of Faith's path is brighter than the greatest splendour of "the course of this world."

"Peace and joy in believing" is the legacy of Christ, borne to the soul by the Holy Spirit; "My peace I give unto you."

They are very strong, whom God helps.

There is no "to-morrow" to the believer; "To-day while it is called to-day."

"Through our Lord Jesus Christ," is the most important part of every prayer.

"The witness of the Spirit" is the only testimony received in the court of heaven.

It will be a bright spot even in heaven, where the redeemed of the Lord are, for they will be like unto Christ.

"The things of this world" are to be earned "with the sweat of the brow," but "eternal life is the *gift* of God, through our Lord Jesus Christ."

The Lord's examination of suppliants for His mercy was of their faith not of their works; "*Believe* ye that I am able to do this."

The sound of the Gospel is the echo of heaven, borne to earth by the Prince of peace.

Grace is the expression of God's love to us in Christ.

God is the measure of His own mercies, "according to the riches of His glory."

Limited indeed must be the sympathy of that heart, which feels no pulsation beyond its own.

An *unseen* faith bears its own denial.

Unseen grace is no grace.

True religion is the response of the renewed heart to the influence of divine grace.

The end of the natural heart's action is self, that of the renewed heart is Christ.

What will the *world* say? is the natural man's anxiety.

What will the *Lord* say? is the question of the renewed heart.

Our *enjoyment* of mercies will ever be in proportion to the measure of our faith.

"The knowledge of Christ" is the greatest talent that can be entrusted to man.

Every heart has a wound which none can heal but Christ.

Sin never yielded to *human* argument.

Sin never grows feeble by age.

Never stand on the world's ground in upholding truth, "Be strong in the Lord."

Every gospel precept is founded on a *received* mercy, not made the purchase of it.

"The love of Christ," is the believer's unanswerable argument, "who gave Himself for me."

The only ray of light, that shone on earth from paradise, was the promise of the Saviour.

We speak more truly by what we *do*, than by what we *say*.

Every advance in spiritual wisdom is but an extension of faith.

Unfelt mercies are always *fruitless*.

Our title to heaven is, that we are purchased by Christ for His inheritance.

How great is the solitude of sin, for it separates us from God.

The price of our redemption is of God's own appointment, there can, therefore, be no question of its acceptance or sufficiency.

Every believer bears in his heart an epistle of Christ to His heavenly Father, written by the Holy Spirit.

Measure the trials of your faith by the power of the Lord, and not by your own strength.

Often are our prayers proved to be faithless, by other provisions being made for our help, in case God should fail us.

The promises of God are the portraiture of Christ, drawn by the Holy Spirit.

God cannot be bribed by promises of amendment.

We should form no views of God, but those which He has revealed of Himself.

"Let us pray," is the true language of faith.

"I am not worthy" is the only plea on which to ask God's mercy in Christ.

Heaven is never closed to the eye of faith.

Christianity is Christ formed in the heart.

Christianity is not a science nor a system, but the life of God in the soul; it cannot, therefore, be *theoretically* learnt.

When we come to the throne of grace, we must plead Christ and not ourselves, if we hope to be heard and answered.

All idolatry is but the worship of self.

The gospel is an aggression on the world, we must not therefore expect its concurrence.

Fear is the attribute of sin; the first answer to God after the fall was, "I was *afraid.*"

The Gospel to be the *solace,* must also be the *guide,* of our lives.

The *effect* of any truth on our lives will be in proportion to the faith by which it is received in the heart.

We shall never overcome the world, until we can glory in the victory of Christ.

If we are not seeking to obtain the world's *smile,* we shall be indifferent to its *frown.*

If you would know the fulness of the Gospel, you must receive it in its fulness.

Our value in the sight of God is not according to our own worth, but according to *the price* he has paid for us.

If led to question why *so great* means were used to recover man, wait for the answer till the *greatness* of the purchased blessing is possessed.

No evidence we can give of our faith is more strong than living in the privileges to which it has admitted us.

The believer knows the weakness of independence, and seeks to live in dependence on God.

Christianity is no abstract sentiment, it deals with realities; death and hell are realities, and we need a *real* Saviour.

Where sin did abound grace has "much more abounded," the sin was finite, the grace is infinite.

All that is from God is good, and all that is good is from God.

The soul is not fed through the senses, the eye may be pleased, and the ear fascinated, whilst the soul is famishing.

Hell is the fulfilment of the sinner's wishes, he desires to hide himself from the presence of God, and perdition is being driven from the presence of God's glory.

All God's works are perfect, and *Salvation* is no exception.

Mercy is the portal to holiness.

The sun of righteousness never sets.

The unprofitable servant did say he thought his Lord was an *austere* man, but many now obey not the Lord, whilst they confess that He is *merciful.*

How great is the solitude of sin, wherein there is fear to hold communion with the sinner's own heart.

Grace gives sovereignty to the soul, which keeps it from dominion of sin, and brings the body into subjection.

Love to Christ is an instinct of the regenerate heart.

A great principle of Evangelical truth is, that a holy life is the *consequence* and not the condition of pardon in Christ.

A divine truth fixed in the mind, becomes a centre of life and light.

Grace is omnipotent.

Faith is to the soul, what the senses are to the body; by faith we see and feel and taste the Lord is gracious.

The first step of faith must be unknown till taken; Abraham went forth "not knowing whither he went."

The Bible never claims a lesser power than *Divine.*

The light of God's countenance is the sunshine of the soul.

Love to Christ is the pathway of holiness.

Ere mercy can be appreciated, guilt must be felt; it is a valueless pardon where *nothing* is forgiven.

There must be a rejection of Christ before a soul can be finally lost.

Obedience is simply faith in action.

Superstition is the natural man's substitute for religion.

The heart can never be really neutral.

No heart can ever break, that is resting on the breast of Jesus.

Christianity is Christ.

Faith gives *reality* to the Gospel.

Sincerity and good motives are no substitutes for Christ.

Filial love to God is the witness of His Spirit to the believer's adoption.

Unbelief is a verdict against God.

The promises of God are never cancelled.

No unbeliever's evil life ever shook the faith of a true Christian.

An *unreal* religion is a mockery of the soul.

Many are afraid to trust their own profession of faith.

When we have faith to see Christ gave Himself for us, we shall give ourselves to Him.

Christ *gave* His love to us, but He *purchased* ours.

The experience of the whole world has never found a fallacy in Christianity.

Our *faith* and not our worthiness is the measure of our mercies; "I am not worthy," said the Centurion, but Christ said "As thou hast *believed* so be it done unto thee."

The Gospel does not call us to endure misery with the promise of support, but it gives us happiness with the promise of sustaining it.

Every trial to the believer must meet Christ on its way.

To question the love of Christ is to deny that He died for us.

What a calumny on Christ is unbelief.

The thunderings of Sinai were the additions made by man's sinfulness to the Law, which in itself is the expression of love to God and man.

The believer has not to prove the truth of the love of Christ, but that of his own.

If the truth of the Bible is denied, there is no Christ, no heaven, no God, no Holy Spirit; all is gone.

The victory of Christ in the believer's heart is the mastery of self.

The Gospel is a divine tune which has no variations.

The truth of God is reality, all else is unreal.

There are no rebukes in God's word for having trusted Him *too much.*

Until we know the full value of the price paid for heaven, we shall not know the extent of its blessedness.

An *inoperative* faith and a *fruitless* conversion carry their own refutation.

Have you ever thanked God for the gift of Christ? is an important question.

That heart cannot be in a right state where Christ is ever out of season.

There are no contingencies placed in the hands of others, on which *our own* salvation depends.

God never leaves a believer's soul in ruins, but builds up that which *we* have destroyed.

The Gospel is God's plan, by which he has restored the harmony between the believer's present state and his eternal existence.

Every house is well provided where the Lord is present.

God is as omnipotent in *mercy* as He is in judgment.

The *means* by which God has manifested His love is as unalterable as the *source* from whence it flows.